

Licensed Plus Quality Rating System Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (FAQs)

Questions about the Standards

1. How do I get help in meeting standards that my program has not yet addressed?
Each Resource and Referral Agency will have a collection of examples and samples of the documentation required for each of the standards. Workshops and consultation will be available to assist programs begin or refine their administrative and program materials. The Early Learning NH website will have sample materials. The Community Technical Colleges and Granite State College will include content related to each of the indicators in their college courses.
2. Where can I find out how to write a “Professional Development Plan”?
There is a chapter on professional development planning and a template for an individual plan in the NH Early Childhood Professional Development System, Guide to Early Childhood Careers published by the Child Development Bureau. This book is available free of charge from the Child Development Bureau.
3. Why are health and safety criteria not included?
High standards of quality in health and safety are covered in the New Hampshire Child Care Agency Licensing Rules. If there are concerns about compliance with these standards parents may contact the Bureau of Child Care Licensing. Findings by the Bureau are posted at the facility. Any evidence of meeting health and safety standards beyond licensing would require an on site observation. At this point in time the Licensed Plus rating system does not include ongoing site visits.
4. Why are there different criteria for family based programs and center based programs?
The rating system for option 1 requires demonstrated compliance with a total of 16 standards, including 11 mandatory standards and an additional 5 standards selected by the applicant from the non-mandatory standards. Some standards that pertain to center based programs do not apply to family settings, and some standards that fit family settings do not pertain to centers. For equity the number of required standards allow for these differences.
5. An important aspect of quality care is the presence of nurturing providers, why are there no standards addressing how adults interact with young children?
The initial rating will be based on the submission of documentation that meets criteria based on the providers’ oversight. Although there may be visits by the Licensed Plus Program Specialist to verify compliance with documentation requirements, ongoing observation of practice is not included in this rating. Through education and professional development providers will learn about developmental theory, guidance, and best practice and be able to incorporate appropriate and positive interactions.
6. When a particular standard refers to “within 12 months”, does it refer to the current year or past year?
Requirements that pertain to “within 12 months” refer to the preceding year leading up to the application.

7. What is Strengthening Families and how can I find out more?
Strengthening Families is a national initiative that is focused on collaboration between child care programs and families. Any program is able to download the "Self Assessment" form from the website (www.cssp.org/uploadFiles/handbook.pdf) and use the assessment for program improvement.
8. What is the purpose of listing staff positions?
One measure of quality is the stability of staff. Listing positions, educational qualifications for each position, and salary scales is an indication that administrators are aware of and pay attention to equity, professional development, and compensation.
9. What are the "NH Early Learning Guidelines?"
This document outlines seven developmental and learning domains that address the progress young children should make in key areas. These Guidelines are useful in program development, communicating with families, professional development, and transitional collaborations. The Resource and Referral Networks will provide training upon request in the content and application of the NH Early Learning Guidelines.
10. What does a "conditional license" mean?
Conditions may be placed on a license or permit to protect the health, safety or well-being of children, assist a child care program achieve and maintain compliance with licensing rules or statute, or avoid suspension, revocation or denial of his/her license or permit. For example, if a provider has repeated violations related to discipline, a condition may be placed on her license requiring attendance at a course or training on appropriate interactions with young children.
11. What does a "suspended license" mean?
A license may be suspended when a program has a violation related to a correctable environmental health or safety issue, or an appeal of a criminal conviction or child abuse, neglect or endangerment finding, and the program does not have a history of repeat violations. The Department may reinstate the license when correction has been made.
- For example, if a program's heating system is not functioning the license may be suspended, and the program will be required to close until the repairs are made.